

AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, on or about lines 9-17, to read as follows:

The use of porous membranes is a technological area that is becoming increasingly important.

In order to produce porous membranes, the membranes are irradiated with ~~energy particles~~
~~energetic articles~~ and then chemically etched, producing pore channels. The pores may have a diameter of from a few tens of nanometers to in the micrometer range and are very homogeneous. Pores having diameters in the nm range are restricted in their use because mass transport through the small pores is poor. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is widely used. A method of etching ion tracks in PET membranes is described in P. Appel Apel, Y.E. Korchev, Z. Siwy, R. Spohr, M. Yoshida, Diode-like single ion track membrane prepared by electro-stopping, Nucl. Instrum. Meth. B 184, 337 (2001).